



*Princes Street Gardens*

## Church Magazine

**December 2014 and January 2015**

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## **Staff**

**Rector** Very Revd. Susan Macdonald

**Associate Priests:** Revd Maggie Rode  
Revd Nigel Rode

**Assistant Priest:** Revd Imre Katay-Fodor

**Director of Music:** Dr Michael Green

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## **Office Bearers and Vestry Members**

Rector's Warden      Lindsay Graham

Ex Officio Vestry

People's Warden      Robin Morris

Ex Officio Vestry

Treasurer              Kenneth Ramage

Ex Officio Vestry

Vestry Secretary      Linda Brown

Ex Officio Vestry

Factor                  Michael Herriott

Lay Representative    To be elected on 14<sup>th</sup> December

Ex Officio Vestry

Elected Vestry Members: Hugh Goddard, Mike McNamee,  
Alan Shotter, Mary Snow and Stuart Valentine

No charge is made for this magazine or for 'Inspires' but contributions to the Treasurer are always acceptable. An envelope marked Magazine may be placed on the offering plates.

All enquiries about events to the church office. Email: [admin@6a.org.uk](mailto:admin@6a.org.uk)

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## Welcome to the December and January Magazine

We come to the end of another year 2014 and the new church year has begun. Years and anniversaries bring different memories and expectations at different times, some joyful others sad. We are to rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. There are events in life that stand out for us. We can remember where we were when we heard some good news (I was eating breakfast in a hotel in the West End of this city when Susan rang to offer me this job and was too excited to finish it!) or can remember where we were on 9/11 (I was in my office at Waterloo when the Building Manager came in and told me to turn my TV on).

A friend came to stay in September and as we sat down with a glass of Prosecco (a tradition we have!) she told me her son and daughter in law were delighting in an unexpected but much wanted pregnancy. But during the last few weeks I have spent time with friends who are hurting, some from the insensitivity of others and others as they have watched a son escalate into drink and drugs at age 16.

Christmas for me is about celebrating the birth of Christ who came to give us the new ultimate new beginning. My prayer for them and for all of us is that we will know that new beginning and hope we have in Christ. When the magi were searching for Jesus and found him Matthew tells us:

“When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him.” (Matthew 2:10-11)

**Anne Burnett**

**Church Manager and Magazine Editor**

The deadline for the next magazine will be published Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February.

Deadline for contributions Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January.

# **Letter from the Clergy**

Dear Friends

## **What is Christmas?**

For some people it is the most wonderful time of the year. They have never really lost the childlike innocence of the excitement of decorations, fairy lights and the anticipation of the big day spent with their loved ones. Christmas is a time when we often sit around with family and friends telling stories and remembering times past. Many of us have Christmas family traditions such as making the cake or the puddings together. We enjoy telling stories of how things used to be. It is good to share memories and recollections, to make people smile and to maintain some of the family traditions.

But is this enchanting fantasy world of twinkling lights, carol music and feel good factor what Christmas is about? The season of Advent gives us a chance to ponder on the meaning of this great feast as well as prepare to savour the experiences of the Christmas season and retell the “Christmas” story

What is the true message of Christmas? What is the Christmas Gospel? The coming of the Son of God is incomparably harsh but beautiful. It is the ‘word made flesh’, but not in a fantasy extravaganza. Matthew tells us of a King, born homeless and amid hostility. God chose not to come in power, but instead chose to come as a helpless baby. He came to a mother, a teenager, facing the birth of her child in a strange place away from everything familiar. His birth took place in a stable with the animals, because there was nowhere else. He came with such risk and such vulnerability. The Holy Family very quickly became a displaced family and their first Christmas was ‘on the run’ as they became asylum seekers in Egypt.

This is the indescribable beauty, pain and truth of the Incarnation. This is the true Christmas Gospel. God is at the very heart of humanity. He entered our world. The carols, like the Gospels, sing of the painful beauty all the way from the cradle to the cross, when on Bethlehem's plain the one born a king is at last 'sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.' Jesus Christ is not just a figure in history, whose life, death and resurrection may be of interest, but have no direct impact on our lives. He is God's gift to each one of us. Will you accept Him? Is He just the gift you need? Will He enter your world this Christmas Season as your Lord and Saviour?

With every Blessing for the Christmas Season

**Maggie Rode**

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## **Carers Event**

Christ Church Pastoral Coordinator Team (Maggie Rode, Nigel Rode and Elizabeth Pearson) invite all who are in a caring role, be that regularly for someone close to you or more occasionally for a friend or neighbour to come to an event on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to Noon in the Church Centre for an opportunity to share experiences and explore ways that Christ Church may support you in this role.

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# Lectionary Readings for the Eucharist for December and January

7 <sup>th</sup> December Advent 2	Isaiah 40.1-11 Psalm 85.1-2,8-13 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8
14 <sup>th</sup> December Advent 3	Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8,19-28
21 <sup>st</sup> December Advent 4	2 Samuel 7.1-11,16 Luke 1.46b-55 or Psalm 89.1-4,19-26 Romans 16.25-27 Luke 1.26-38
24 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Eve	Isaiah 52.7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1.1-4(5-12) John 1.1-14
25 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas Day	Isaiah 62.6-12 Psalm 97 or 98 Titus 3.4-7 Luke 2.(1-7)8-20
28 <sup>th</sup> December Christmas 1	Isaiah 61.10-62.3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.22-40
4 <sup>th</sup> January Christmas 2	Jeremiah 31.7-14 or Sirach 24.1-12 Psalm 147.13-21 or Canticle: Wisdom 10.15-21 Ephesians 1.3-14 John 1.(1-9)10-18

11 <sup>th</sup> January The Baptism of the Lord	Genesis 1.1-5 Psalm 29 Acts 19.1-7 Mark 1.4-11
18 <sup>th</sup> January 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20) Psalm 139: 1-5,12-17 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 or Rev 5:1-10 John 1:43-51
25 <sup>th</sup> January 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany	Jonah 3.1-5,10 Psalm 62.6-14 1 Corinthians 7.29-31 Mark 1.14-20



# Jenny Wright Ordinand Placement



Hello! My name is Jenny Wright. I am a final year ordinand at the Scottish Episcopal Institute and I am going to be on placement at Christ Church from mid-January until Easter.

I was born and raised in South Africa, in a small gold-mining city called Welkom. After finishing school, I headed down south to the University of Stellenbosch, situated in the beautiful wine region just outside of Cape Town, where I completed a bachelors and masters in Theology. I then spent six months studying in Umea, Sweden (I did not know it could be so cold and dark!) followed by 18 months in the wonderful world-heritage university town of Bamberg in Bavaria, Germany.

After getting married to Sean (back in South Africa), we moved to Singapore for two years. During this time I completed my doctorate in theology (through the University of Stellenbosch), with a focus on public theology and social training for ordination, and more recently tutoring at New College in Theology and Christian Ethics and pursuing research on community and identity with a focus on the theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Reinhold Niebuhr and Nicholas Wolterstorff.

Outside of the academic world, I enjoy reading crime novels, playing the piano and clarinet, playing the occasional round of golf and baking – although this last needs to be done in moderation!

I look forward to meeting you over the next few months and participating in life at Christ Church.

**Jenny Wright**

# Sunday Services for December and January

## 8.00am

Every Sunday                    Holy Communion (traditional language)

## 10.00am

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>                    Advent 2                    Sung Eucharist

Dec 14<sup>th</sup>                    Advent 3                    Sung Eucharist

Dec 21<sup>st</sup>                    Advent 4                    Sung Eucharist with  
                                  Young Church Nativity

Dec 28<sup>th</sup>                    *No 10am service, crèche or Young Church*

## **11am Joint Communion Service at Morningside United**

January 4<sup>th</sup>                    Christmas 2                    Sung Eucharist

January 11<sup>th</sup>                    Epiphany/Baptism                    Sung Eucharist  
                                  of the Lord

January 18<sup>th</sup>                    2<sup>nd</sup> after Epiphany                    Sung Eucharist

January 25<sup>th</sup>                    3<sup>rd</sup> after Epiphany                    Sung Eucharist

## **6.00pm (in the Church Centre unless stated otherwise)**

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>                    Creative Space -readings, prayers, silence, music

Dec 14<sup>th</sup>                    Worship in the style of Taize

Dec 21<sup>st</sup>                    Carol Service (in church)

*Dec 28<sup>th</sup> & Jan 4<sup>th</sup> – no evening service*

Jan 11<sup>th</sup>                    Worship in the style of Taize

Jan 18<sup>th</sup>                    Open Table – informal communion

Jan 25<sup>th</sup>                    Sung compline – gently chanted night prayer



# Christmas Services

at

## Christ Church

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

**Young Church Nativity** at the 10am Sung Eucharist

**6.00pm Carol Service** with choir and congregational carols  
followed by refreshments in the hall

**Christmas Eve (Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>)**

**8.00am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion**

**5.00pm Children's Service** followed by refreshments in the hall

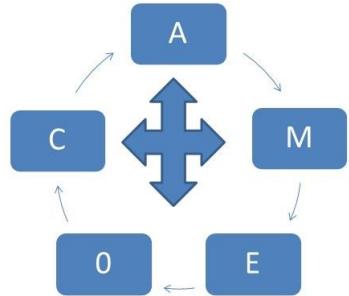
**11.30pm Midnight Sung Eucharist**

**Christmas Day (Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>)**

**9.00am           Holy Communion (traditional language)**

**11.00am         Sung Eucharist with carols and Baptism**

## Afternoon Communion



The Afternoon Communion Service in the church centre - is also known affectionately as " Cameo " standing for " Come & meet each other". This takes place on the second Wednesday of each month - beginning at 2.30pm. It starts with a short service of Holy Communion - including a few hymns. We all sit round about half a dozen tables in the centre. Everyone remains seated for the service. Following this there might be a brief talk on a topic of interest - perhaps tying in with the seasons - Harvest, Remembrance, Advent etc.

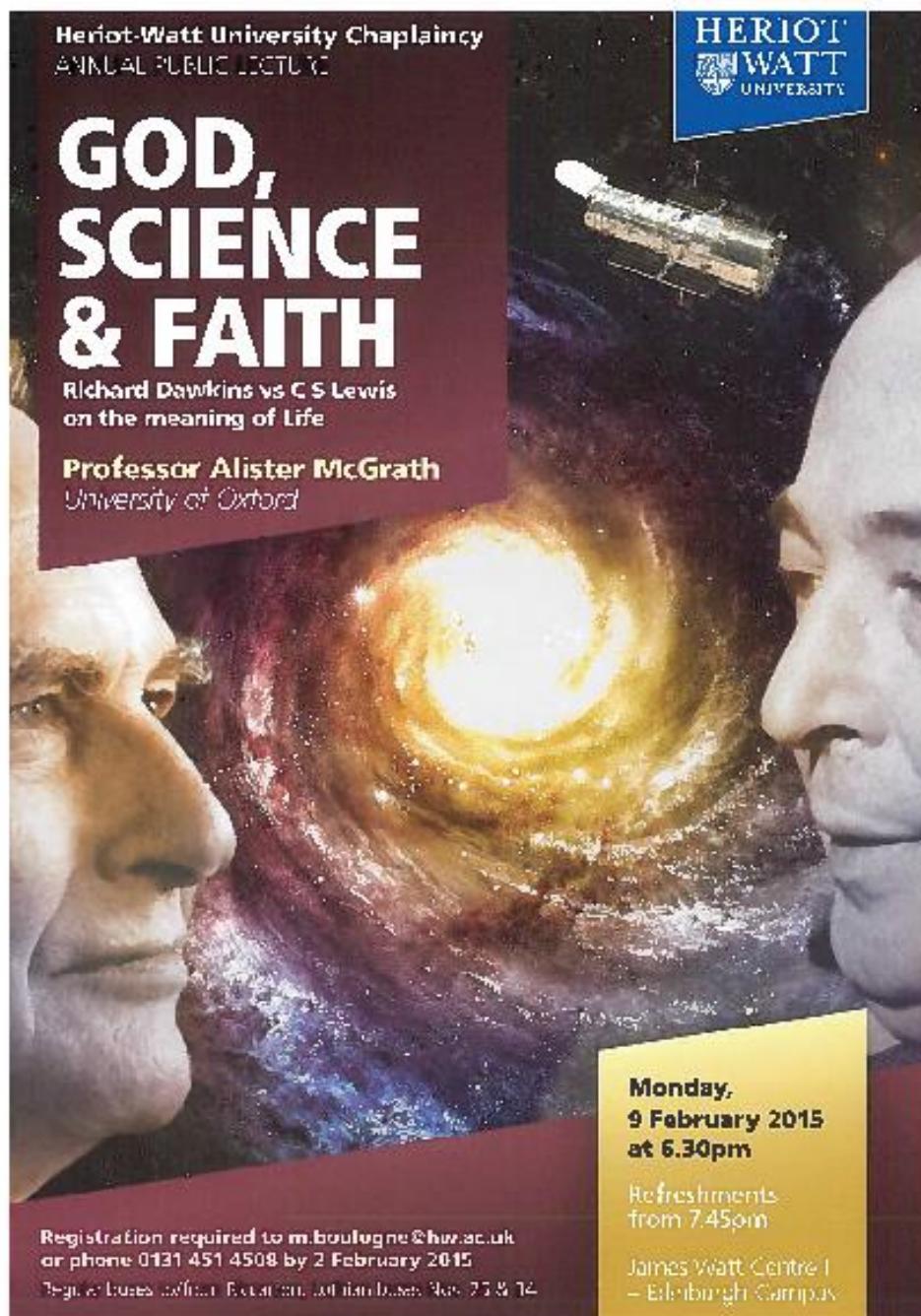
Finally our Mothers Union Members serve a lovely afternoon tea with home baking. We all partake of the refreshments - the helpers are included. Lively conversations take place every time. Attendance figures average about 22 people and this comprises a mixture of Helpers and other more frail church members - some of whom cannot now get to 10am Sunday service.

Regular feedback from attendees remains positive. People like the atmosphere, the company, the Liturgy - and they always mention the cheese scones and the cakes.

We would like more people to join us. Even if you just come once to try it out. It is a regular monthly open service. We would benefit however from some more help. This can range from helping with the teas, to setting up the tables & chairs, to picking people up from home by car or keeping someone company in a taxi to come to the church centre.

Do think about it and if you would like to talk it over or get more information about volunteering.

## Napier Lecture



This is a ticketed event at the James Watt Campus. We have ten tickets. Please contact the church manager if you are interested or register: [m.boulogne@hw.ac.uk](mailto:m.boulogne@hw.ac.uk) or phone 451 4508 by 2<sup>nd</sup> February. (Buses 25 and 34)

# **journeys in Faith** December to February

## **SUNDAYS**

*11.30am to 12.30pm in the Church Centre*

**7<sup>th</sup> December** “**St Andrew – why is he Scotland’s patron saint?**” A talk and discussion led by Dr Ursula Hall, retired lecturer in Ancient History.

**18<sup>th</sup> January** “**Theology and Science**” A talk and discussion led by Revd Dr Michael Fuller, New College (the University of Edinburgh School of Divinity) and member of Christ Church. This session is a lead in to the Lent evening course which will be based on selected chapters from Jonathan Sacks' book 'The Great Partnership: God, Science and the Search for Meaning', and will be facilitated by Dr Alan Shotter and others. Michael will also preach at the 10am Sung Eucharist that day.

**1<sup>st</sup> February** “**Victorian religious architecture**” A talk and discussion led by Dr Alex Bremner, Senior Lecturer in Architectural History, the University of Edinburgh College of Art, and member of Christ Church.

**15<sup>th</sup> February** “**The ‘surprising’ life of a retired Bishop**” A talk and discussion led by Bishop Brian Smith, former Bishop of Edinburgh. Bishop Brian will also preach at the 10am Sung Eucharist beforehand.

## ***Other series in planning for 2015***

**“Faith in Work, Work in Faith”** - members of the congregation speaking of their daily work and the challenges it brings to their faith, and their faith brings to their work.

**“Exploring faith traditions”** - meeting with people of other faiths and Christians denominations to discover more about their faith and practice.

## **WEEKDAYS**

### **ADVENT AT THE RECTORY**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 7pm to 9pm**

A quiet evening for Advent led by Jane Green and Susan Macdonald with music, art, readings and silence

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 7pm to 9pm**

A time to discuss and reflect on Rowan Williams' book "Being Christian" in which the author helps us to explore the essential elements of the Christian life – baptism, bible, eucharist and prayer. The book can be ordered in person through the Edinburgh Bookshop (opposite Christ Church), or online [www.edinburghbookshop.com](http://www.edinburghbookshop.com)

*Please sign up for either or both of these events on the sheet at the back of church.*

### **LENT IN THE CHURCH CENTRE**

**Mondays 16<sup>th</sup> February to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 11.15am-12.45pm**

"Finding a Voice" Six sessions based on the film The King's Speech led by Susan Macdonald and Jane Green

**Wednesdays 25<sup>th</sup> February to 25<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm - 9.00pm**

"Faith in Science, Science in Faith" Five sessions based on selected chapters from Jonathan Sacks' book 'The Great Partnership: God, Science and the Search for Meaning' led by Alan Shotter with others.

### **THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN THE CHURCH CENTRE**

The Wednesday Reflection Group starting with coffee at 10.15 am in the Church Centre/

For further information about any of the above events, or to make suggestions for future events, please contact the Journeys in Faith Planning Group

Hugh Goddard, Susan Macdonald and Alan Shotter

# **Christmas Gift for Christ Church**

Each year we offer the opportunity to make a donation towards a Christmas gift for Christ Church – last year it was for the now much used and appreciated dishwasher in our hall kitchen.

This year we are inviting donations towards new chairs for our church centre, a building in constant use for church services, groups and meetings as well as by groups from the wider community. Our old plastic chairs are looking rather tired and to be honest are not the most comfortable, and so we would like to purchase 24 (the maximum we have storage for) of these stacking chairs at a total cost of £400



If donations exceed the cost of the chairs we would also seek to buy new equipment for our faithful and hardworking Holy Dusters (volunteers from the congregation) who take care of the cleaning of our church building so well. We need everything from eco cloths to vacuum cleaners....

**Please leave any donations in an envelope marked “CC Christmas Gift” in the Treasurer’s pigeon hole in the church front porch or the church office. (*Please do not leave cash in the pigeon hole*)**

***The Vestry of Christ Church Morningside***

# Christmas Gifts for others

**Each year cash collections at our Christmas services are divided equally among three charities from the following categories nominated by our UK & Overseas Support Committee.**

Mental Health or Special Needs (2013 TEENS +)

Children or the Elderly (2013 Age Scotland)

Homeless or Others in Crisis (2013 Edinburgh City Mission Food & Basics Bank)

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## Our 2014 Christmas Charities are:



**ROYAL EDINBURGH  
COMMUNITY GARDENS**

A Community Growing Together

[www.royaledinburghcommunitygardens.org.uk](http://www.royaledinburghcommunitygardens.org.uk)

A children's charity based in Edinburgh providing respite breaks for disadvantaged children living in Scotland



GIVING KIDS A BREAK

**FreshStart** 

working to end homelessness

[www.freshstartweb.org.uk](http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk)

Fresh Start is an Edinburgh based charity that helps people who have been homeless get established in their new home.

## Cascade Conversation

Same Sex Relationships and the Scottish Episcopal Church

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015

7pm to 9pm in Christ Church Hall

This is our opportunity, along with members of St Cuthbert's, Colinton and St Peter's, Lutton Place to take part in this important process within the life of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The meeting will be facilitated by members of the Diocesan Cascade Planning Group and numbers will be limited, so please sign up on the sheet at the back of church, or contact the church office, if you plan to come.

*For more information see the attachment or insert with the magazine*

# **Update Report for the UK & Overseas Committee**

## **Gender Development at Simbai Vocational Training Centre – November 2014**

Since my last Update Report to you a year ago, I am pleased to share that things are now in an even more encouraging state than they were in the Training Centre then. Let me explain:

Just over two years ago, a serious management problem was discovered at Simbai VTC. It was dealt with quickly by the Anglican Church in PNG (ACPNG), but it meant that the Centre had to close down for almost six months, with the associated disruption and disappointment for the students and staff. However, with an experienced local Centre Manager and strengthened local Board of Governors, the Centre is now running better than ever with a greater choice of courses, more staff and more students. This includes a significantly higher proportion of young women training and, for the first time this year, a girl's dormitory for the young women trainees who come from villages further afield.

Since its Government registration six years ago, the Madang Provincial Authority has been responsible for paying the training staff and making a grant towards equipment and materials. That is the theory! In practice, staff occasionally have to travel from their remote rural setting to Madang on the coast to sort out their non-payment, and the pledged materials grants are often only paid in part, or not at all. Consequently, the Centre is constantly faced with trying to run the courses on rather less than a shoestring. Despite this, there has been real development over the past year and good things are happening, a tribute to the staff and the spirit and commitment of the students.

There are now seven staff and six different courses being provided: Carpentry (the original course provided when the Centre was opened in the late 1990's – the most recent Centre Graduation included 12 young women from this course); Home Economics (currently all female students, but with the occasional male in past years); Mechanics (currently two female students); Computer Studies (six women); Tourism & Hospitality (seven women) and Agriculture, usually with a fairly even split between male and female students.

In addition, one of ACPNG's two Gender Development Officers visits Simbai each year to provide awareness-training through Gender and Violence workshops, both for the surrounding churches' communities and, separately, for the SVT students and staff. Within this, a workshop is held (most recently for the 34 women students and three staff at the Centre) intended to empower them and equip them with life-skills to develop and thrive in this macho Highlands culture. As with all education courses provided by ACPNG, this includes an awareness-raising input on HIV & AIDS and, in this case, a description, demonstration and distribution of 'Stay Free' (sanitary-towels) to help girls overcome the strong cultural taboo against attending classes during their monthly periods.

Earlier this year, both Gender Development Officers were invited to the UK by Norwich Diocese and had a busy speaking tour in East Anglia and London. They also had three days in Scotland, staying with my wife and me, and speaking movingly at several SEC engagements. One of these, the Diocesan Lady Day Service, was held in Christ Church, Morningside, with Bishop John presiding. Their presentation was warmly received by the 60+ participants, with lively discussion over lunch.

Quite simply, the recent three-year cycle of grants provided by the UK & Overseas Committee at Christ Church was a significant factor in enabling this important development towards better gender development and equality at Simbai VTC. The Centre has a growing track-record of preparing young people for paid employment in nearby towns or equipping them with practical skills to be valued in their own communities. Indeed, six young people from Simbai are now at, or have graduated from, university. Undoubtedly, though, the Centre's most profound contribution is reflected in the growing awareness of gender equality amongst the students and in the surrounding communities.

Inevitably, much remains to be done to embed this change in the Centre and local communities, whilst overcoming the challenges presented by uncertain and inadequate funding for the core activities of this rural training institution. Your past help was truly appreciated and influential.

**John Rea, Vice-Chairman – PNG Church Partnership**

## **Projects for Christ Church to support from 2015**

Do you have a favourite charity which you would like Christ Church to support? If so, the UK and Overseas Support Committee (UKOSC) is looking for two international charities and three UK-based ones to support from 2015, and we would be very pleased to receive nominations from members of the congregation.

The committee aims to support a range of projects both geographically – i.e. in different parts of the world – and thematically – i.e. involved in different kinds of work, and we currently support projects in Latin America (Asas de Socorro/Missionary Aviation Fellowship), West Africa

(Cameroon Student Access Fund), East Africa (Life Bloom, supporting sex workers in Kenya, and FOCUS Uganda, supporting Christian ministry on university campuses), and India (the William Clark Memorial School in Nagaland), with the final year of our support in 2015 going to Sabeel (supporting Christian communities in Israel-Palestine), and 500 Miles (orthopaedic work in Zanzibar).

A form to nominate charities for us to support is available *either* on the website *or* in paper form at the back of church (a green form), and nominations should be submitted **by the end of January**, please. Forms can be returned either electronically to [manager@6a.org.uk](mailto:manager@6a.org.uk) or on paper to one of the Co-Chairs of the committee, Hugh Goddard or Lindsay Graham.

The mechanics of determining the amount which we have available to give is that 5% of our annual income is given to international causes, normally around £1,000 for three years and then £500 in the fourth year; and then 10% of the church's non-designated legacy income (i.e. the income received in legacies which is not designated to a specific purpose) is given to UK charities, which are normally supported for two years.

The committee's hope is that nominating a project for Christ Church to support indicates a readiness to serve as our link person with that project, including obtaining the annual report which we ask each project to submit indicating how our financial contribution has been used, normally for International Sunday in November, and we look forward to receiving your proposals!

**Hugh Goddard**

# Jan Fairley Memorial Award



## Jan Fairley Memorial Award

**2014-15**

I heard very recently about the launch of this award which is for an **Edinburgh-based journalist** at the start of their career to recognise arts journalism with an international outlook. However the closing date for entries was 30<sup>th</sup> November so too late for any such journalists readings this, but I hope this news will still be of interest to many. Jan, who died on St Columba's Day (June 9<sup>th</sup>) 2012. was a well-known and much loved member of Christ Church, former director of the Edinburgh Book Festival and a highly respected world music writer. It was good to hear of this award being given in her memory.

The award has been created by the Edinburgh Freelance Branch of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) in memory of their colleague and friend, with the support of the Edinburgh District Branch. A committed NUJ member, Jan was also a passionate campaigner for human rights. As a music journalist, she was a lifelong promoter of world music and had strong connections with Latin America.

Entrants were invited submit from one to three pieces of between 500 and 1,500 words which have already been published in an edited publication whether online or in print, with each pieces demonstrating writing about the arts in a way which sets it in a wider social or international context.

A selection from the winning entry is to be published in *The Scotsman* newspaper.

**Susan Macdonald**

## Dying Can Be Beautiful



***Dying can be beautiful –  
a reflection on the death of my  
husband***

A few years ago when my husband Arnold was in hospital during one of the several major medical emergencies of his life, I witnessed one of the most spectacular sunsets I had ever seen. As the light finally faded and darkness fell, I clearly felt the Lord saying to me “Dying can be beautiful, too”.

In August 2013 Arnold and I were told that he had about a year left to live (in the event he had 11 months). Now we would see how dying could be beautiful.

Several things helped it to be so. All our family and friends knew the prognosis and were told that no questions or topics were “off limits,” so open and honest communication was facilitated and nothing needed to be left unsaid. It was safe to express fear and distress, to laugh or cry, to offer verbal comfort or loving silence.

We were greatly helped by the love and spiritual care of our rector Susan Macdonald and our Christ Church family, and Nick Bowry’s monthly visits to bring us Holy Communion at home were always times of good cheer and great comfort. We were aware of faithful prayer support and touched to receive a knitted prayer blanket from the knitting group. The Christ Church quilters gave me much love and understanding.

Our family were unfailingly supportive and it was a great pleasure to see the grandchildren regularly, demonstrating their gymnastic or violin skills, bringing round home baking or cards or jokes, and just generally cheering us with their boisterous and enthusiastic young life.

Friends were very kind in imaginative ways. One took us out in her car for regular outings as Arnold was able, or drove us to hospital appointments. Another would send upbeat DVD's and frequent cards. Another would always bring us edible goodies whenever she came. Yet another included us in all the build-up to her wedding (some of it "classified" information such as photos of the dress, sample menus, etc) and Arnold was absolutely thrilled to be well enough to attend her al fresco wedding on the banks of the Tay on a perfect Saturday in May.

In the last week of his life close family and friends helped me to nurse Arnold at home. The district nurses and the Marie Curie carers and nurses who helped us for the final few days were wonderful, and hugely appreciated.

One of the most beautiful of the many blessings of this 11-month period of dying/living well was Arnold's ability to maintain his gratitude, sense of humour and steady faith in the very difficult circumstances of pain, loss of control and increasing need to rely on others for all aspects of personal care. He was deeply reassured of God's great mercy and love, and was able to face dying without fear, knowing that "Underneath are the everlasting arms". Whilst it was not an easy time for any of us, God's grace and Arnold's loving spirit made it as easy as it could have been and, yes, dying can be beautiful.

## Celia Eighteen

## Sermon from Remembrance Sunday

“Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red” – whether we’ve seen it for real or through images in the media, the sight of the Tower of London’s famous dry moat filled with 888,246 ceramic poppies will live in our minds for a very long time.

Each poppy depicts a British or Commonwealth military fatality of the First World War. The war which began just over 100 years ago and in which an unimaginable number of mostly young, very young lives were wiped out. As we remember them today we also remember the other 8 million fatalities, not to mention the additional 30 million casualties and missing of that awful conflict, and of every conflict throughout history to this day.

Every workplace, village, town, and congregation throughout the land was affected by World War One, and Christ Church was no different. Our archivist, Helen Williams has uncovered some fascinating material from that time, which helps us to understand a little of what life was like then for the congregation that we are now.

*Only three months into the war and our church magazine of November 1914 lists 56 men of Christ Church already in active military service, and tells something of what that meant for the rest of the congregation.*

*Our daily half-hour of Special Intercession in Christ Church will be continued as hitherto since the war began*

*The weekly Work Party at the Rectory is still doing good work, and we shall be glad to welcome new helpers. Up to the present time we have sent away to 7 organisations:*

*574 pairs socks; 92 shirts; 38 belts, 18 helmets, 12 mufflers; a good supply of pipes; 10 mufflers; 3 chest protectors; 27 pairs mittens, with a pencil in each; as well as new and old clothing for Belgian Refugees, and for Dalmeny Hospital 89 packets, containing paper and envelopes, post cards and pencils, for the wounded soldiers*

*There is a special demand for handkerchiefs and every woman in the congregation is asked to supply one.*

And from the vestry minutes of that same month state:

*"A discussion ensued on the administration of the money collected at the offertories for sufferers from the War and it was agreed that the Rector, Mrs Black and Mrs Coles form a Committee to disburse it to deserving cases of which they had personal knowledge."*

This war, "that was to be over by Christmas" but went on and on, was a war that mobilised everyone. As the numbers from Christ Church in military service increased, so did the works of the congregation here at home.

*From August 1915, a 'Sphagnum Moss Work Party' was set up to prepare field dressings, and this became part of the official supply chain, delivering dressings to the main depot at the Royal Infirmary*

*From 10 April 1916 until 6 January 1919, the hall under the church was operated as a 'Soldiers' Club and Canteen' for those billeted in Bruntsfield School for training, and although they moved to Catterick in September 1917, the Club was kept open and finally closed in January 1919.*

The efforts of Christ Church for others were matched by the cost to its members. The memorials in our side chapel bear witness to this, and there is at least one other we know of whose name is not there.

The Revd and Mrs Black and Mrs Coles we heard of earlier, and who gave so much of themselves to helping others during these years, like so many others did so in the midst of great pain and loss for themselves. If you look at the WW1 memorial in the side chapel you will see among the 25 listed there the names of two of Revd and Mrs Black sons, and the names Mrs Coles only two children. If you did not already know this you may be surprised to find that one of her children named is a woman. The Rector in the midst of his personal grief wrote of this:

*The tragic tidings of our dear Daisy's death has stunned us as none other of our family bereavements at Christ Church has done. To all of us who know the family life of Mother Church, she was one of our beloved children. We saw her grow to fair womanhood. And when the war came she joined the noble sisterhood of nurses.*

Daisy was killed by enemy air-craft fire at the 58<sup>th</sup> General Hospital in France on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1917. Her brother Lionel had been killed in action the previous year.

In the midst of the impossibly large numbers we talk of at times such as this, numbers we cannot grasp or if we do can overwhelm us, we need to remember that those numbers are made up of individuals, of human beings just like us.

I don't think we can ever make sense of such things, but one way for us as Christians is to hold such stories – stories of individual and large scale loss - within the other story that is deeply woven into our lives. The story revealed to us in the life, death and resurrection of Christ which had become so deeply woven into the life of the Apostle Paul that in his letter to the Christians in Rome he was able to write:

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

As we remember today those who died for their country in war and in the service of humankind - and for all innocent victims of conflict throughout the ages - we find assurance that death does not have the final word. In Jesus' own words from today's Gospel:

*And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. (John 6.40)*

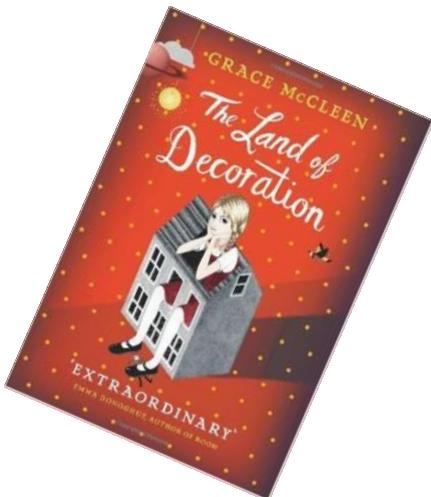
**Susan Macdonald**

# Book Group

## The Christ Church Book Group

**January 2015: No Book to read but meeting on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm to discuss to plan our reads for 2015. Please come along/ let us know of any books you would recommend.**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 The Land of Decoration:** Grace McCleen



Judith and her father don't have much -- their house is full of dusty relics, reminders of the mother she's never known. But Judith sees the world with the clear Eyes of Faith, and where others might see rubbish

“The Land of Decoration” is philosophically sophisticated but narrated by a 10-year-old girl leading a difficult life. Part of the achievement of this gripping novel is the sustained way in which we are made to watch and root for our motherless underdog. If childhood is a crucible, so is, at times, reading an unvarnished book about one attempt to survive it.

***This book will be available from the Edinburgh Libraries Book Collection please pick up your copy from the Church Office, available from 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> December or from 5<sup>th</sup> January. There are multiple copies of this book also available at the Library .***

## **B Walkers Programme 2015**

**January 17<sup>th</sup>**      Canal and Water of Leith 7 miles

**February 21<sup>st</sup>**      Mystery Walk 7 miles

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**      Pentlands up to 9 miles

**April 18<sup>th</sup>**      Three Brethren 8 miles

**May 16<sup>th</sup>**      Lamington 12 Miles

**June 20<sup>th</sup>**      Upper Tweed Valley 8 miles

**July 18<sup>th</sup>**      Morebattle to Kirk Yetholm 8 miles

**August 15<sup>th</sup>**      Traquair 7 miles

**September 19<sup>th</sup>**      Falkirk Wheel and the Kelpies 8 miles

**October 17<sup>th</sup>**      Earlston circular 8 miles

**November 21<sup>st</sup>**      Coastal walk 7.5 miles

**December 12<sup>th</sup>**      Roslin Glen 6+ miles

Please contact the named organiser by the preceding Thursday so transport can be arranged. We share petrol costs. New walkers are always welcome. For more information, please contact the church office.

# **Every Week at Christ Church**

## **Sunday Services**

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8.00am      Holy Communion (1929)

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10.00am      Sung Eucharist (1982)

With Crèche and Young Church

Followed by coffee & the One World Shop in the hall

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11.30am      1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Journeys in Faith

Theological or Topical Discussion or Workshop in the  
Church Centre

11.40am      2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Silent Prayer in the side chapel

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6pm      Evening Service (see below)

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## **Sunday Evening Services (in the Church Centre)**

*Normal pattern, exceptions as announced*

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| First Sunday  | Creative Space<br>A service of readings, music and silence                |
| Second Sunday | Prayer in the style of Taize  |
| Third Sunday  | Open Table – an informal communion service                                |
| Fourth Sunday | Sung Compline – gently chanted night prayer                               |
| Fifth Sunday  | Choral Evensong (in the church) or Service in the<br>Centre as advertised |

# **Weekdays at Christ Church**

## **Monday**

- 8am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion  
1pm 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays: Knitting Group  
6pm Evening Prayer, preceded by quiet time from 5.45pm

## **Tuesday**

- 8am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion  
10.15am 3<sup>rd</sup> week in the Centre – Holy Corner Carers Group  
2pm Quilting Group  
2pm 4<sup>th</sup> Week: Mothers' Union at a member's home  
6pm Evening prayer, preceded by quiet time from 5.45pm  
7.30pm 1<sup>st</sup> week: Book Group  
2<sup>nd</sup> Week: Mothers' Union in the Centre

## **Wednesday**

- 8am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion  
10am Gardening Group—*on winter break to 4<sup>th</sup> March*  
10.15am Reflection Group, Quiet Room, the Centre (not 2<sup>nd</sup> week)  
11am Holy Communion  
2.30pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Week: Afternoon Communion followed by tea (Cameo)  
6pm Evening Prayer, preceded by quiet time from 5.45pm

## **Thursday**

- 8am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion  
6pm Evening Prayer, preceded by quiet time from 5.45pm  
7.30pm Choir Practice in the Church

## **Friday**

- 8am Morning Prayer and Holy Communion  
9.45-11am Play & Praise  
For birth to school age and their carers in the Centre  
6pm Evening Prayer, preceded by quiet time from 5.45pm